

The Training Highly Skilled Americans Act would use revenue from H-1B visas to promote STEM education at minority-serving colleges and universities and provide scholarships to minority students who are going into STEM fields.

Science and technology companies are already paying our government to bring foreign workers to the U.S. to fill STEM jobs, so why not use some of these funds to train our own folks to have these skills to fill these jobs in the future? This is particularly critical for minority students, who are significantly underrepresented in these fields. By opening our doors to STEM education, we will strengthen our education system and our economy.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT WEB SITE PROBLEMS

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this fall the President said the Affordable Care Act is more than just a Web site and that the problems with the Web site will soon be fixed. While I don't disagree with either of those two statements, I don't understand the timeline involved because yesterday in the Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, the deputy chief information officer for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services told us that the Web site was launched, but it wasn't finished upon launch.

I have to ask: Why in the world would they proceed with this if they knew it wasn't finished? When asked to give a percentage completion, it was confusing. His answer was either 40 or 60 percent; no one really knows, and here is the kicker. When you get to January and providers, doctors, and hospitals are seeing patients who think they have coverage under the Affordable Care Act, part of the problem with the unfinished Web site is there may be difficulty in delivering provider payments. That is an intolerable situation that must be resolved and must be resolved quickly. It could start with the administration being honest with the committee about where they are in the development of the Web site.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, today world leaders are meeting in Geneva to negotiate an agreement that could lead to the elimination or reduction in the threat of nuclear weapons in the Middle East. This is a good thing. The goal of the negotiations is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, particularly those in the possession of or that could

potentially be developed by Iran. We don't want Iran to have a nuclear weapon. We ourselves are trying to reduce stockpiles, so negotiations to prevent that are squarely within the United States national security interests.

The American people support these negotiations. A new Washington Post poll shows that Americans want a negotiated deal with Iran by a 2-1 margin. The alternative to negotiation is not good. In fact, it could lead to war. Americans do not want another war. Therefore, negotiations are the right way to handle this particular problem with regard to preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. Support negotiations. We support them, and hope they succeed.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

(Mr. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, recently, I received an email from a woman in my district named Shannon. Shannon received a letter from her health care provider stating that her current health care policy did not meet the requirements of the Affordable Care Act and that she would have to choose a new plan or go to the health care marketplace and find coverage.

She went to the health care marketplace and found a comparable plan that cost \$400 a month more. This is outrageous. More than 300,000 Floridians, like Shannon, received letters that their current health care plans were canceled. Premiums and deductibles are increasing for countless Americans. So many people received notices that their plans were canceled. We have only begun to experience the devastating effects of this law.

I submit that the next concern of my constituents will be not only that they can't keep their health care plan, but they won't be able to keep their doctors. We need to get rid of this law, and we need to replace it with one that is consumer-focused and market-driven so that Americans like Shannon can get affordable health care coverage and keep their doctors.

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AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues have highlighted the challenges of implementing the Affordable Care Act at the Federal level. While these must be addressed, I would like to take a minute to highlight the successes we have seen at the State level in Rhode Island. Although a majority of States opted not to operate an exchange of their own, Rhode Island

chose to be a leader in creating a State-driven, integrated marketplace to provide quality, affordable health insurance for its citizens.

On October 1, Health Source RI, the Ocean State's online portal and health insurance marketplace, opened for business. It has successfully enrolled over 5,000 residents to date without many of the issues plaguing the Federal Web site. Of course, we are still at the beginning stages of this process, and efforts are under way to improve and expand the successful rollout with many of our State partners.

This has been a highly collaborative effort, and I look forward to continuing our work together so that individuals, families, and small businesses can shop for insurance that meets their needs based on transparent, competitive pricing and robust coverage.

PRO-GROWTH ENERGY POLICY

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, Americans are working hard to make ends meet during this sluggish economy, and a clear and predictable pro-growth energy policy will help to alleviate financial stress on American families as energy costs rise. But most of all, pro-growth energy policies will create jobs and put Americans back to work.

If you are looking for legislation that will create jobs across America, there are several opportunities to vote "yes" this week in the United States House.

The Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act, Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act, and the Protecting States' Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act are all pro-growth, pro-energy policies that the House will consider this week and will give all my colleagues an opportunity to show whether they are pro-jobs or not.

These bills will promote natural gas pipeline infrastructure construction projects, expand onshore American energy production, and create jobs by passing these bills that will streamline government red tape and eliminate duplicative and costly regulations that only delay safe energy production on American soil.

Mr. Speaker, let's unite on behalf of the American people and support these pro-energy growth, pro-job creation bills.

CONGRATULATING TEACHER OF THE YEAR, ART ALMQUIST

(Mr. GRIJALVA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tucson High Magnet School's teacher, Art Almquist, as being named Teacher of the Year by People Magazine.